

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2876

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4994

EXDIS

FOR LOWENSTEIN/EUR FROM GOOTT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL AND AZORES

1. SOURCE WHOM LOWENSTEIN REFERRED TO GOOTT AT USUN HAS INFORMED LATTER THAT AUGUSTO SOARES PLANS CALL LAINGEN, AS SUGGESTED, IN NEXT DAY OR TWO. IF SOMEHOW CALL NOT RECEIVED, SOURCE SUGGESTS THAT LAINGEN PHONE SOARES AT HILTON INN, TERRY-TOWN, N.Y. (914) 631-57-00 TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT IN WASHINGTON. SOURCE CONSIDERS SOARES AS "BRILLIANT AND MOST PERCEPTIVE AND PROMISING " YOUNG MAN.

2. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH SOURCE, SOARES AND COLLEAGUE REPORTED THAT AZORES INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT EXTREMELY STRONG AND CONFIDENT. THEY NOW COMMITTED TO POLICY OF ISSUING DECLARATION ASKING FOR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION THROUGH AN OPEN PLEBISCITE, UNDER INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION, RATHERN THAN SIMPLY DECLARING THEIR INDEPENDENCE. ORIGINALLY THEY HAD PLANNED TO RELY ON US SUPPORT BUT THEY NOW REALIZE THAT US SHOULD NOT TAKE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY. BUT THEY ARE VERY ANXIOUS TO BE SURE THAT US POLICY WILL BE THOROUGHLY PLANNED AND CONSIDERED IN ANTICIPATION OF EVENT, WHICH COULD TAKE PLACE AT ANY TIME. ABOVE ALL, THEY WANT US TO BE PREPARED TO DISCOURAGE LISBON GOVERNMENT FROM SENDING CRUISERS OR PARATROOPS TO THE ISLAND, AND FROM USING FORCE TO PREVENT A REFERENDUM. THEY BELIEVE THE PEOPLE IN THE AZORES WOULD BLOCK ANY USE OF PORTUGUESE
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AIRPORTS FOR PURPOSE OF LANDING TROOPS. THEY WANT TO BE SURE

THAT OUR AIRFIELD WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH PURPOSES AND, OF COURSE, THEY WOULD LIKE US TO BE PREPARED TO SAY, IN WASHINGTON, LISBON, BRUSSELS AND THE UN, THAT THE REQUEST FOR A PLEBISCITE SEEMS REASONABLE, OR NOT UNREASONABLE, OR SOMETHING BETTER, IF POSSIBLE.

3. SOURCE MAKING NO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION AT THIS TIME, OTHER THAN THAT WE GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO PROSPECT OF AZOREAN DECLARATION OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND US REACTION THERETO, AND PARTICULARLY DESIRABILITY AVOIDANCE OF USE OF US MILITARY BASES FOR PURPOSES INDICATED ABOVE.

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